

Kaiserslautern Gates Increase Security, Improve Access, Save Money

Following successful testing at Installation Management Command-Europe's Kaiserslautern Garrison, a new gate system that increases security – and saves the Army money – may soon become a standard feature at several installations.

The entry system was developed “to increase security at pedestrian gates and create efficiencies in the guard force,” said James Otto, USAG Kaiserslautern Force Protection and Anti-terrorism officer. “The key has been listening to the public and converting that feedback into improvements in the security design concept of the gate.”

In addition to added security, the gates have positively impacted finances at USAG Kaiserslautern. Otto said the system saved his agency approximately \$20,000 after only a few months of trial operations. He sees that number increasing to between \$237,000 and \$500,000 this fiscal year with even better returns in the near future.

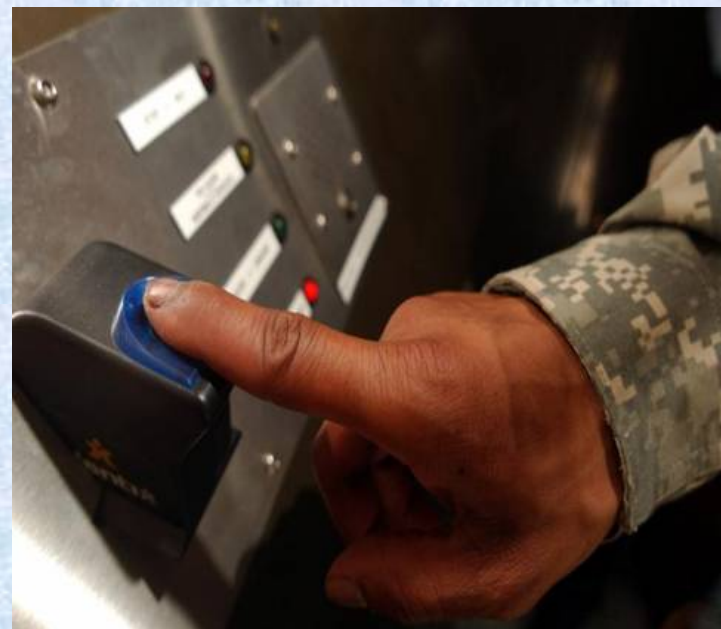
“In FY08, the savings will be a minimum of \$780,000 and upwards of \$1.5 million,” Otto said.

The prototype concept came from the Kaiserslautern Garrison's Anti-terrorism office and funding was provided by the Department of the Army's Office of the Provost Marshal General, but Otto said several organizations played a role in the program's success: the Corps of Engineers in Huntsville, Ala.; the USAREUR Office of the Provost Martial; 5th Signal Command; USAG Kaiserslautern; a project team from Johnson Controls; and individual Soldiers.

“We are constantly reviewing procedures and using recommendations from the customers—from ergonomic improvements to technology enhancements,” Otto said.

The new gate requires pedestrians to use both ID cards and a finger print reader.

Although the system is automated, human intelligence remains at the heart of garrison security. The gate includes several mechanisms that detect efforts to circumvent procedures. The entry point is equipped with cameras, speakers and a push-to talk button, enabling pedestrians to speak to a guard.



Guards can see and hear pedestrians and can make quick and practical entry decisions. For example, the guard may block several pedestrians trying to use only one person's card. Conversely, an identifiable family member with groceries and small children would be allowed in.

“If something goes wrong or is out of the ordinary, a human makes the decision – not a computer,” Otto said.

USAG Kaiserslautern currently has plans to convert six more gates to the new system: USAREUR, the Department of Defense Joint Chiefs of Staff and IMCOM Europe have provided funding for four gates to be installed at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center this fiscal year. Two additional gates will be built in the Kaiserslautern area as funds become available.